

PUERTO RICAN
arts
A L L I A N C E

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May 27, 2003

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket No. MB-02-235

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am Carlos R. Hernandez of the Puerto Rican Arts Alliance and I am writing in regards to the Commission's review of the proposed merger between Univision Communications Inc. and Latino Broadcasting Corporation (HBC). As a member of the Latino community, I am confident that this merger will create a media organization better poised to serve our community and to compete against America's media conglomerates for the growing Latino audience.

Over the years the Puerto Rican Arts Alliance (PRAA), a non for profit 501 (c) (3) community arts organization, has received critical support from Univision for its annual Puerto Rican Cuatro Festival. As a result of this help, the PRAA has been able to effectively reach out and promote the Festival to the greater metropolitan Puerto Rican community and other Latino communities. Univision has truly become a genuine partner in our non-for profit efforts with promoting our culturally educational music project over the past four year.

The combined efforts of Univision and HBC should be viewed as a significant opportunity for Latinos in the media and for the Latino community as a whole for the following reasons:

1) The Merger will promote growth of Latino radio and television job opportunities for Latinos. The histories of both Univision and HBC are of growth, not constriction or consolidation.

Continued growth of the radio and television businesses of Univision and HBC will inherently mean growth in media opportunities for Latinos. In the case of each of Univision and HBC, I am aware that more than 80% of the work force is Latino and that is expected to continue after the proposed merger. Latinos are employed across the entire field of employment opportunities at Univision. In fact, 50% of the Univision Board and 65% of operating management are Latino. And over 130 Latino women hold management positions. I know that this is not by accident; but rather by design. Univision consciously and aggressively seeks out talented Latinos for management positions.

2) New capital investments will be attracted to Latino media resulting in increased competition and greater management and ownership opportunities for Latinos. Major investors are increasingly interested in supporting entrepreneurs already engaged or considering entering the Latino media business. The Merger will serve to increase the interest of investors and other capital suppliers, thus resulting in the development of new Latino radio and television stations and networks. Those stations and networks will need Latino leadership and talent to thrive.

The growth of Univision and its policies of training and promoting Latinos have created a significant base of Latinos who now have the expertise to own and operate a broadcast station or network. And, as a result of the pioneering work of Univision and companies like HBC to raise the visibility of Spanish-language media, the Latino broadcast talent base now has access to financing sources and advertising sources that would have been unimaginable only a few short years ago.

Regarding the growth of Spanish language media, I would like to make another point. I completely disagree with suggestions that this industry be segregated from other media. Over the past two decades, Spanish language media has grown by competing with English-language media and isolating this industry would be a huge step backward that would eventually eradicate the success already achieved. It is an affront to all Latinos to suggest that the media serving this community could be considered substandard or different from its general market competitors.

3) The combined Univision and HBC resources will provide enhanced services to the Latino community. I believe that combining the resources of Univision and HBC will result in a significant strengthening and growth of media services available to the Latino community. By adding radio to Univision's television offerings, it will only enhance and deepen the relationship the company has with our community. I have personally worked with the local Univision affiliate on many occasions and truly appreciate that station's commitment to the betterment of our community. I am particularly grateful for the many public service announcements broadcast on their air as well as the indispensable information provided on their website.

In light of the substantial benefits arising to the Latino community from the proposed merger of Univision and HBC, I ask that his proposed transaction receive all due consideration as promptly as possible in order to make these benefits to the public a reality.

Sincerely,

Carlos R. Hernandez
Executive Director